GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:134
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
PENDING IRRIGATION PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently evaluated the completion status of the major and medium projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so,the details and outcome thereof indicating the projects pending beyond their prescribed completion time during the last three years and the current year,State-wise;

(c) the reasons identified for delay in the completion of the projects;

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period;and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for earlier completion of these Projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF.SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.134 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27 OCTOBER 2008 REGARDING PENDING IRRIGATION PROJECTS

(a).Evaluation/Review of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the Ministry of Water Resources to assess broad physical status of the ongoing AIBP projects and take remedial measures for their timely completion is continuous process.The Secretary (Water Resources) has reviewed the implementation of AIBP with the representatives of the State Governments during May-July 2008.The Planning Commission has recently initiated evaluation study of the Programme.Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has also carried out evaluation of the Programme considering data up to September 2004.Further,National Remote Sensing Agency has been assigned the task of confirmation of irrigation potential created under AIBP in respect of 53 selected projects.

(b). Out of 257 major/medium irrigation projects supported under AIBP.100 projects have been completed so far. 143 AIBP assisted projects are reported to be delayed beyond their scheduled completion time.Out of these,55 projects have been completed during the last 3 years with persistent efforts by the Ministry of Water Resources. The state wise details of pending irrigation projects are given in Annex-I.

(c) Apart from project specific problems,broadly,the delay in completion of the projects occurs due to shortage of funds with the State Governments,land acquisition problems,resettlement and rehabilitation problems,contractual problems,unforeseen technical problems, delay in mandatory/statutory clearances,delay in execution of the works which is required to be carried out by the agencies other than project execution agency and legal issues.

(d) The details of the central assistance released under AIBP to the major/medium irrigation projects are given in Annex-I.For the year 2008-09,budget allocation of Rs.4300 crore has been made for AIBP.

(e) Government of India has stepped up the outlay of central assistance under AIBP. The AIBP procedures for release of funds have been simplified.Central Water Commission monitors major/medium irrigation projects bi-annually by paying field visits and issues monitoring reports which inter-alia contains suggestions for timely completion of the projects.Ministry of Water Resources also reviews status of implementation of projects from time to time to carry out corrective measures for timely completion of the projects.